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Identical letters dated 30 July 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the following:

Over the past few days, the armed terrorist groups have launched attacks on innocent civilians and public and private property in the Syrian Arab Republic and, in particular, in Damascus and Aleppo. Those groups, which are openly provided with funding and weapons by Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey, have committed terrible crimes against defenceless civilians in those two cities and are continuing to do so at this very moment in the city of Aleppo, where large numbers of those armed groups' mercenaries have gathered. Turkey facilitated their crossing into Syrian territory, where they have occupied several densely populated neighbourhoods. They are using the population as human shields and have killed anyone who did not support their criminality. Others have been forced at gunpoint to leave their homes.

What must be noted is that all those events took place after the most recent visit to Syria, on 8 July 2012, by the Joint Special Envoy for the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria, Kofi Annan. During that visit, a set of measures was agreed for restoring security and stability to Syria through the six-point peace plan and what was agreed upon at the Geneva meeting. Unfortunately, we do not hear those who claim to be concerned for Syria and the lives of its people calling upon the armed groups to halt their armed operations, reverse their course and join the political process aimed at staunching the flow of Syrian blood that has been demanded by the United Nations and accepted by the Syrian Government. Similarly, all the attempts made by the United Nations observer mission, in cooperation with the Syrian Government, to begin the political process have failed because of the refusal of the armed terrorists to enter any political process, which should not come as a surprise, given that the representatives of the armed groups have not agreed to enter such a process and have made scores of statements in which they rejected the six points, the outcome of the Geneva meeting and what was agreed upon with Mr. Annan when he visited Damascus.

Hypocritical voices are being raised in the capitals of the States that are conspiring against Syria and, in particular, in Ankara, Doha, Riyadh, Washington, Paris, London and Berlin, accusing the Syrian Government of escalating the situation in Syria, instead of accusing the terrorist groups that have attacked

Damascus, Aleppo and other cities in a desperate attempt to gain political backing for the operations carried out by those groups, in whose ranks there are terrorists from Arab and foreign countries, and to gain moral and material support and backing for their crimes. Officials in those States are calling for further meetings of the Security Council and the General Assembly to be convened on the issue of Syria, while the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the law enforcement forces are exercising their right to defend innocent civilians, in accordance with the provisions of international law, international humanitarian law, human rights law and the first agreement, that was concluded on 19 April 2012, between the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Nations observer mission and, in particular, article 16 thereof.

What we find strangest of all is the announcement by certain international parties and, in particular, permanent and non-permanent members of the Security Council, of their decision to work against Syria independently of the Council and its procedures, the implication being that they are abandoning their responsibilities, with a view to fanning the flames of the Syrian crisis in order to reach their well-known goals of changing the principled stances of Syria, imposing on it political conditions that are antithetical to the aspirations of its people and destroying the Syrian State.

Out of the respect that we have for the moral role of the Security Council, and in keeping with the Charter of the United Nations, we call upon all members of the Council to demand that the armed groups and the States that support them withdraw from the Syrian cities that they have attacked, end their terrorism, cease their anarchic practices and support the Annan six-point plan and the understanding that was reached during the meeting held between Mr. Annan and the Syrian leadership in Damascus.

The Syrian Government reiterates its determination to implement Mr. Annan's plan and initiative and affirms its welcome for the outcome of the Geneva meeting: as it has declared, it believes that there can be no resolution of the Syrian crisis unless the representatives of the Syrian people sit together at the national conference table in order to find a way out that will stop the bloodshed, ensure the dignity of the Syrian people and build a stable future for the country that is decided by the Syrian people and achieved through Syrian leadership.

It would be highly appreciated if the letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative